Jonah 4 — When We Resist Mercy

Passage: Jonah 4

Key verse (KJV): “Then said the LORD, Thou hast had pity on the gourd, for the which thou hast not laboured, neither madest it grow; which came up in a night, and perished in a night:” - Jonah 4:10

Objective: Explain how Jonah 4 exposes outward obedience without inward compassion, and identify one practical way to value people above personal comfort.

Outline

1. God wants outward obedience and _____ that rejoice in His mercy.
2. Jonah resisted God’s _____ toward Nineveh.
3. Jonah knew God was a _____ God, yet resented His grace.
4. God’s question exposed whether Jonah’s _____ was right.
5. The word “_____” shows God’s sovereign direction of the scene.
6. Jonah showed _____ for a temporary plant.
7. Nineveh was filled with _____ made by God.
8. God calls us to rejoice in His _____ toward sinners.
9. The gospel makes us more like _____.
10. Let the _____ govern the conversation.
11. Aim for honest _____ rather than merely criticizing Jonah.
12. One practical response is to _____ for a difficult person.

Discuss

1. What does Jonah 4:2 reveal about Jonah’s motive for fleeing?
2. Why did God use the gourd, worm, and wind?
3. What does God’s final question teach about the value of people?
4. What “gourd” might make us indifferent to people?
5. How does Christ’s response to sinners correct Jonah’s response and ours?

Further Study

Exodus 34:6-7; Nahum 3:1; Luke 19:41-44; Romans 5:8; Romans 11:25-29

Notes